

Summer Safety Institute for Educators

Teaching for a Safe Future

For the eighth year, educators from around the state gathered for a week in June to learn about safety and how to teach it to their students. This year 27 educators spent the week at United Technologies Center in Bangor, learning from many of the state's best safety instructors, sharing their own teaching experiences, and doing a practice safety inspection.

For SafetyWorks!, teaching educators is one of the best ways to ensure that the workers of tomorrow value safety and know how to stay safe and healthy on the job.

"I feel well prepared to make a positive impact at my school."

Darren L. Hartley, Lewiston Regional Vocational Center

"I'm making major changes to my curriculum to incorporate job safety awareness."

David Kramlich, Gray-New Gloucester High School

"I will be more aware of hazards and what to do about them in everyday life. I don't teach now, but (safety) will be the first lesson in my plan."

Wendy Plourde, USM Student



Causes of Fractures among Laborers and Carpenters in Maine from 1993-2002



Presented by BLS statistician Ruth Ladd at the 2nd Maine Occupational Safety and Health Research Symposium.

Fatality Research in Maine

The Maine Department of Labor has a new pilot project to study fatal workplace injuries. The Fatality Assessment, Control and Evaluation (FACE) program identifies and investigates work-related deaths. The program studies prevention strategies, then recommends ways to prevent deaths from similar incidents in the future.

Maine FACE Case #0103

Worker Killed When Dump Truck Hits Power Line

To find out about this fatality and recommendations for prevention, go to www.maine.gov/labor/bls/FACE/FACE.htm or call 624-6454 and request a copy of FACE report #0103.

Do You Work with Molten Metal?

The melting/smelting of metal can put workers at risk of explosion, fire and electrical hazards, and exposure to dioxins. For a fact sheet on safe metal melting/smelting, as well as registration requirements, call the Air Bureau of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection at 287-2437. For information regarding the safe operation of a sweat furnace, call SafetyWorks! at 624-6400.

Blueberry Harvest Tour

Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman hosted a tour of the blueberry harvest in Cherryfield on August 7. Each year 15,000 migrant workers come from distant states to pick blueberries in Maine. Blueberry rakers face back strain, exposure to chemicals, and heat stress. SafetyWorks! has a new class about migrant and immigrant workers in Maine, December 16 in Hallowell.



Photo credit: Kim Lim



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Visit our web site at <http://www.Maine.gov/labor/blsmain.htm>



Traffic Safety Season It's Here! It's Now!

*With an official proclamation read at the August 8 Traffic Safety Fun Fair, Governor John E. Baldacci officially kicked off **Traffic Safety Season**. The awareness campaign concludes with Drive Safely Work Week, October 6-10.*

The proclamation calls upon all employers "to join in this lifesaving observance and remember that SAFE DRIVING IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS and to DO THEIR PART and encourage their employees to drive focused to stay safe this day and every day hereafter."

Despite the rain, the Traffic Safety Fun Fair was a very successful start to Traffic Safety Season. Safety seat technicians inspected 37 car seats and made potentially lifesaving corrections on most of them.

Many organizations learned about resources available through Maine Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (Maine NETS). To find out more about these resources and how you can join the effort to keep workers safe on the road, contact Michele Grant at 624-6425 or at Michele.Grant@Maine.gov.

The **Traffic Safety Dunk Tank** was a big success. Major Robert Gregoire and Officer Mark Bridgham, both of the Augusta Police Department, were great sports considering the water was **OH SO COLD!**



Photo credit: Michele Grant

SafetyWorks! has 43 classes this fall.
www.maine.gov/labor/bls/traincls.htm
or call 877-SAFE-345 for a schedule.

Information in the articles is not a substitute for official policy or regulations. The editor is Lynne Lamstein, director of outreach and education for the Bureau of Labor Standards.

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The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

**The biggest safety and health conference
in New England**

Maine Safety and Health Conference

September 23-26, 2003 in Portland.

For more information, call
the Maine Safety Council at 854-8441.
www.mainesafety.org

How can I keep up with OSHA?

That must be the most common question we get about OSHA regulations. Now there's an easy way. *QuickTakes*, OSHA's free email newsletter, can keep you up to date. Sign up at www.osha.gov.

How can we help you?

We're surveying 20,000 Maine businesses to get answers to this question so we can meet your needs. Please fill out the on-line e-mail survey if you receive it or go to www.interventionteam.com/home.htm and click on *Workplace Safety Survey*.

To thank you for your ideas, when you complete the 8-minute survey, you'll be entered into a drawing for prizes.

Research Symposium a Success



Photo credit: Kim Lim

Dr. John Sestito and Dr. Nancy Stout, both of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, relax at the reception following their talks at the 2nd Maine Occupational Safety and Health Research Symposium. Over 140 people from 13 states joined in the discussions at the May event, sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Standards and the Maine Occupational Research Agenda. The diversity of speakers, presentations, and participants created a conference that was "energizing, intense, and inspiring."

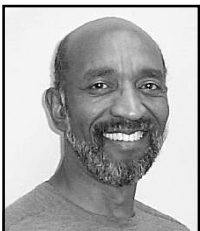
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Summer 2003

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The world of work has seen many changes since the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 created OSHA and birthed the modern safety and health movement. Rates of injuries and illnesses in Maine and the U.S. reached an all-time low in 2001. Concerns about



work have expanded to include, among others, traffic safety, migrant workers, and young workers. In this issue you can see how SafetyWorks! is addressing these issues and taking an increased role in safety and health research.

As director of the Bureau of Labor Standards for the past three years, I've had the opportunity to support the work of the SafetyWorks! staff in their dedicated efforts to improve working conditions in Maine. As I prepare to step down from this position, I applaud them and you for all that you have done to make Maine a better place in which to work. The future brings many changes, and by continuing to work together, you will bring those positive changes to our workplaces. I wish you well in your endeavors.

Michael V. Frett

Michael V. Frett, Director
Bureau of Labor Standards